

Serial #: 09/712,544

In reply to Office action mailed: 29 March 2004

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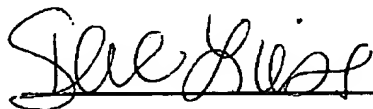
Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 14-27 have been canceled. Claims 3 and 6-13 have been amended to dependent form. Therefore, claims 3 and 6-13 are pending. No new matter has been added to the prosecution of this application. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicant asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 6-13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The claims have been so amended and the other rejected claims have been canceled. Therefore Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at 612-607-7508. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees including fees for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Docket 020530-000011/US).

Respectfully submitted,



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OPPENHEIMER: 2235544 v01 05/30/2004